

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 04284 030159Z

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

/043 W

-----111520 040132Z /64

R 030025Z NOV 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR,PDIP, KN,UN

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF NORTH KOREA'S PERMANENT OBSERVER

KWON MIN JUN

REF: USUN 3127(NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NORTH KOREA'S PERMANENT OBSERVER TO UN KWON MIN JUAN HAS CONCLUDED HIS ASSIGNMENT IN NEW YORK. UNTIL ARRIVAL OF A NEW PERMANENT OBSERVER, MINISTER COUNSELOR KIM GHUNG GOL WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER OFFICE. AMB. KWON HAD BEEN IN NEW YORK SINCE 1973. KWON'S FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD INDICATE WHETHER OR NOT HIS TRANSFER SIGNALS ANY FALL FROM GRACE. END SUMMARY.

2. UN SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT ST/SG/SER.A/241/ADD. 9, 1 NOVEMBER, COVEYED FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER OFFICE BY SECRETARIAT'S PROTOCOL AND LIAISON SECTION: "DEPARTURE: H.E. MR. KWON MIN JUN, PERMANENT OBSERVER TO THE UN. PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW CONFIDENTIAL

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PERMANENT OBSERVER, MR. KIM CHUNG GOL. MINISTER COUNSELOR, IS IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER."

3. AMB. KWON ARRIVED IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1973 WHEN NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED. THIS YEAR, HE DEPARTED NEW YORK IN APRIL AND RETURNED HERE

ONLY WHEN NORTH KOREA'S FOREIGN MINISTER HO DAM TRAVELLED TO NEW YORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER. (REFTEL) REASONS FOR KWON'S EXTENDED ABSENCE ARE UNCERTAIN. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION THAT AFTER 1975 SUCCESS OF PRO-NORTH KOREAN UNGA RESOLUTION, SUBSEQUENT DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY 1976 DRAFT PRO-NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, MAY HAVE CAUSED KWON'S STAR TO FALL. ON OTHER HAND, COMMENT HAS BEEN HEARD THAT KWON'S EXTENDED ABSENCE THIS YEAR MAY HAVE RELATED TO PYONGYANG'S APPARENT POLICY OF GENERALLY LOWERING NORTH KOREA'S INTERNATIONAL PROFILE FOLLOWING 1976 SETBACKS. ALL SUCH SPECULATION, HOWEVER, IS QUITE UNCONFIRMED, LOCALLY. KWON FROM 1961 TO 1973 WAS A VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTH KOREAN STUDENT COMMITTEE. IN THE MID-1960'S HE SERVED AS AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (IUS) AT IUS HEADQUARTERS IN PRAGUE. IN MID-1976, HE RETURNED TO NORTH KOREA AND WAS ELECTED CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH KOREAN STUDENT COMMITTEE. SOUTH KOREANS HERE WILL BE WATCHING KWON'S FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS WITH INTEREST TO TRY TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS TRANSFER. ROK MINISTER AHN, WHO OBSERVED KWON AT UN HEADQUARTER RECENTLY, HAS COMMENTED TO US THAT KWON LOOKED WELL AND CHEERFUL. ACCORDING TO AHN, KWON SPENT VERY LITTLE TIME AT UN HEADQUARTERS THIS FALL.

4. ROK OFFICERS IN NEW YORK DESCRIBE KWON AS RELATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

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MORE POLITE IN MANNER TOWARDS SOUTH KOREANS THAN MOST MEMBERS OF NORTH KOREAN OBSERVER OFFICE. AHN STATES THAT KWON SPEAKS IN TYPICAL JARGON OF NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS. KWON, A RATHER GOOD-LOOKING MAN OF MEDIUM STATURE USED AN INTERPRETER AT PRESS CONFERENCES. WE BELIEVE HIS ENGLISH RELATIVELY LIMITED. ACCORDING TO USUN RECORDS, KWON WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 5, 1927 AT PYONGYANG CITY. THIS BIRTH DATE FALLS IN WITH ROK ESTIMATES OF KWON'S AGE. YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

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